News release

Met Office win travel-plan award

26 February 2004

The Met Office has won a prestigious award for its green travel plan, adding to the many accolades that have come for its new environmentally-friendly headquarters in Exeter. As part of its £80M move from the south-east of England to Devon, the Met Office wished to emphasise its commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment. This extended to developing a green travel plan called STEP, which would provide a neat and comprehensive guide for staff planning their journeys to work.

The Association of Commuter Transport (ACT) Commuter Initiative Awards were set up five years ago to recognise innovation in travel plans and this year the Met Office has picked-up the Public Sector Employer Award. Alan Douglas, Director of Relocation for the Met Office, receiving the award yesterday on behalf of the organisation, said, "This award is very pleasing, as it reflects the tremendous amount of effort put into developing our green credentials. Our staff and the local environment have benefited from the new approach being taken."

Met Office management, Devon County Council and Exeter City Council were extremely keen to promote 'good-practice' for travelling to work, said Edward Chorlton, the Environment Director for Devon County. "The Met Office move was a great boost for the city and Devon in general, and we needed to reduce, as much as possible, any adverse effects on the environment through increased traffic flows. We have therefore worked hard with all companies and authorities involved, to provide a comprehensive travel plan offering choices to individuals to get to work."

The scheme involves working with other businesses in the area, the extensive use of a car-sharing scheme, cycle lanes and on-site pool cycles, extension of an excellent park and ride bus service between the Met Office and central Exeter. Many staff have changed their travel habits now they are located in Devon, bringing a real benefit to the local environment. Currently, out of 1,165 staff, over 500 have registered with the car-sharing scheme and there are 120 car-sharing groups.

Notes:

The ACT Commuter Initiative Awards were set up 5 years ago to recognise originality and innovation in the field of travel planning. Many organisations are now coming up with their own solutions to congestion and pollution, which shows the increasing pace and interest in the development of Travel Plans throughout the UK.

The ACT Commuter Initiative Awards 2004 were presented at the 7th Annual ACT Conference in London on Tuesday 24th February 2004.

Association of Commuter Transport

Exeter City Council

Devon County Council

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

PRINTABLE VERSION

About
Met Office
Hadley Centre
Terms and conditions
Advertise on our site

News
News release archive
Media Centre

Learn
About the weather
From the bookshelf

Services

Mobile text forecasts
Weathercall
Marinecall
Mountain weather
MetWEB
Talk to a forecaster

Links
Met Office data users
National met. services
Scientific interest sites
EA Floodline
Directgov
Freedom of Information

Contact
Contact us
Questions answered

© Crown copyright